

BRIEF ON THE CASE OF ZYAD EL-ELAIMY

Detained in Egypt since 25 June, 2019

Who is Zyad Elelaimy?

Egyptian human rights lawyer, former parliamentarian and a leader of the Egyptian Social Democratic Party. He was a prominent figure of the 2011 uprising. Through his work as a lawyer, he has represented activists, politicians and trade unionists.

Background:

On **25 June 2019**, Zyad was arrested at dawn by plainclothes security agents and held incommunicado for 14 days. Zyad's arrest was part of a widespread arbitrary arrest campaign launched at the end of June 2019 that targeted those coordinating to participate in the parliamentary elections next year through an opposition alliance called "Hope." He was added to state security case 930/2019, known publicly as the **"Hope" case**, on charges of engaging with a terrorist group to help achieve its goals and spreading false news and statements.



الحرية لزياد العليمي
#FreeZyadElelaimy

Recent Update on Zyad's case.

On November 3, 2019, Zyad underwent his 8th interrogation before the state security prosecutor. Zyad, a lawyer and human rights defender seized the opportunity to provide his own defense in the case. His defense summarized the flaws in the judicial process surrounding his arrest. *"I have been detained for five months,"* said Zyad, *"and I have yet to see the investigation and arrest reports, nor has there been a single specific allegation presented to me. I, along with every rational person, know that **I am here because I tried**, as a delegate for the Egyptian Social Democratic Party, the representative of its founders, and a member of its political office, **to form an electoral coalition with several other lawful parties to compete in the coming parliamentary elections.**"*

At every hearing before the state security prosecutor, Zyad has demanded the testimony of the presidents of the five parties under whose auspices and based on whose directives he and his colleagues in the "Hope" coalition were acting. The defense counsel present with Zyad has also requested in previous hearings that a date be quickly set for the statements of the party



Renewal of Zyad's pretrial Detention:

Zyad's detention for the past 160 days has been renewed every 15 days by the State security prosecutor. His detention is almost automatically renewed. The renewal of remand in cases like this one effectively turns pretrial detention into a punishment, which undermines citizens' faith in the justice system.

Starting 18 November, Zyad's detention renewal will be reviewed by a criminal court every 45 days. There are no limits to the number of times the court can renew his pretrial detention.

Important to know about Zyad:

As of 25 September, Zyad Elelaimy was [included in](#) the [protection program of](#) the German Bundestag for parliamentarians and human rights activists at risk.

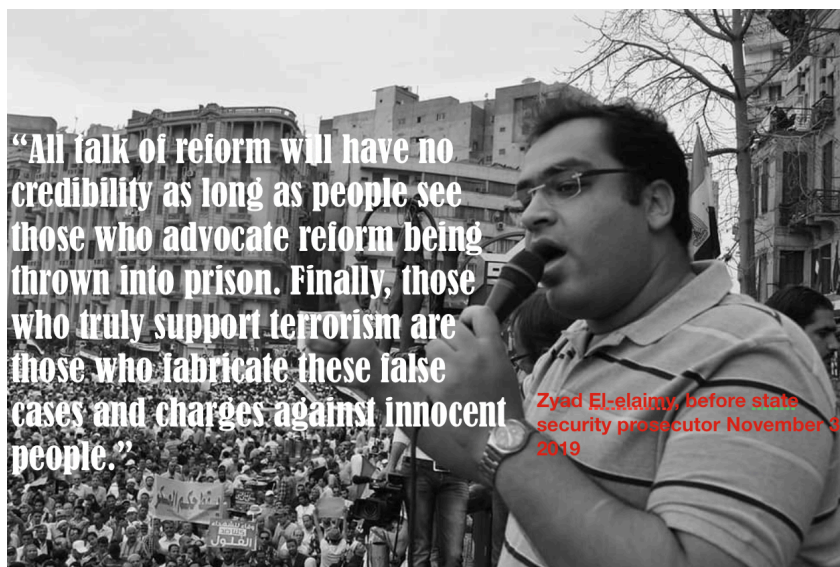
see also:

Urgent Action by Amnesty [link](#)

Urgent Appeal by FIDH-OMCT-CIHRs [link](#)

Brief by Carnegie on the case [link](#)

presidents, all of whom had expressed their wish to appear before the public prosecutor to testify that all the meetings that Zyad Elelaimy attended were following political directives from them, and that all of these activities involve the exercise of his political rights as guaranteed by the constitution and law.



On 3 November, Zyad told the prosecutor *"I understand that some security agencies wish to prevent us from exercising our democratic right to participate in elections due to their inability to meet ideas with ideas. Instead, they bring up terrorism and fabricate charges of terrorism against those who want to propose a democratic alternative to our people. In such cases, all citizens can do is hope that there are independent investigative agencies to examine the charges and vindicate the innocent. Yet, in my case, I have been detained for nearly five months. I have been in several remand hearings, which are no more than a routine procedure involving no investigation and no hearing of the witnesses I have called."*

European Parliament Resolution Regarding Zyad

On 23 October, the European Parliament issued a groundbreaking resolution on Egypt, [2019/2880\(RSP\)](#), calling on the Egyptian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Zyad Elelaimy who was detained for carrying out his legitimate and peaceful human rights work.